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# RANDOM HOUSE WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY

Second Edition

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RANDOM HOUSE  
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**sloe gin**, a cordial or liqueur made from gin flavored with sloes. [1890-95]

**slog** (slog), *v.* **slogged**, **slog-ging**, *n.* —*v.t.* 1. to hit hard, as in boxing or cricket; slug. 2. to drive with blows. —*v.i.* 3. to deal heavy blows. 4. to walk or plod heavily. 5. to toil. —*n.* 6. a long, tiring walk or march. 7. long, laborious work. 8. a heavy blow. [1850-55; var. of **slug**] —**slog-ger**, *n.*

**slog-gan** (slog/gan), *n.* 1. a distinctive cry, phrase, or motto of any party, group, manufacturer, or person; catchword or catch phrase. 2. a war cry or gathering cry, as formerly used among the Scottish clans. [1505-15; < ScotGael *sluagh*-*ghairm*, equiv. to *sluagh* army, host (cf. *slaw*) + *gairm* cry]

**slog-gan-eer** (slog/gan/er), *n.* 1. a person who creates and uses slogans frequently. —*v.i.* 2. to create or use slogans, esp. in an effort to change public opinion. [1920-25; **SLOGAN** + *-eer*]

**slog-gan-ize** (slog/gan/iz), *v.* **-ized**, **-iz-ing**. —*v.t.* 1. to make a slogan of; express as a slogan; to sloganize one's opinions. —*v.i.* 2. to utter slogans; sloganize. Also, esp. Brit., **slog-gan-ize**. [1925-30; **SLOGAN** + *-ize*]

**sloid** (sloid), *n.* **sloyd**. Also, **slojd**.

**stoke** (stok), *n.* 1. algae or seaweed. 2. scum or slime, esp. on a body of water. [1425-75; earlier *slauk*, late ME *slauk*, of uncert. orig.]

**slo-mo** (slo/mo), *n.* **Informal**. See **slow motion**.

**sloop** (sloop), *n.* a single-masted, fore-and-aft-rigged sailing vessel, with or without a bowsprit, having a jib-headed or gaff mainsail, the latter sometimes with a gaff topsail, and one or more headsails. Cf. **cutter** (def. 3), **knockabout** (def. 1). [1620-30; < D *sloop*; akin to OE *slupan* to glide]

**sloop of war**, (formerly) a sailing or steam naval vessel having cannons on only one deck. [1695-1705]

**sloop rig**. See **gaff-topsail catfish**. [1890-95]

**sloop-rigged** (sloop/rigd), *adj.* (of a sailboat) fore-and-aft rigged with a mainsail and a jib. [1760-70]

**slop** (slop), *v.* **slopped**, **slop-ping**, *n.* —*v.t.* 1. to spill or splash (liquid). 2. to spill liquid upon. 3. to feed slop to (pigs or other livestock). —*v.i.* 4. to spill or splash liquid (sometimes fol. by *about*): *The children happily slopped about in the puddles.* 5. (of liquid) to spill or splash out of a container (usually fol. by *over*): *The milk slopped over the rim of the glass.* 6. to walk or go through mud, slush, or water. 7. **Informal**. to be unduly effusive or sentimental; gush (usually fol. by *over*). 8. to move in an idle, lazy, casual, or slovenly manner (usually fol. by *around* or *about*): *to spend the weekend slopping around the house.* —*n.* 9. a quantity of liquid carelessly spilled or splashed about. 10. badly cooked or unappetizing food or drink. 11. bran from bolted cornmeal mixed with an equal part of water and used as a feed for swine and other livestock. 12. any similar, watery feed; swill. 13. Often, **swills**. a. the dirty water, liquid refuse, etc., of a household or the like. b. tasteless or unappetizing soup, stew, or drink. 14. kitchen refuse; swill. 15. liquid mud. 16. **slops**. Distilling, the mash remaining after distilling. [1350-1400; ME *sloppe* (n.), OE *sloppe* (in *clustoppe* cowlspul, lit., cow slime); akin to *slurp*] —**Syn.** 2. splash, slosh, spatter.

**slop** (slop), *n.* 1. **slops**. a. clothing, bedding, etc., supplied to sailors from the ship's stores. b. cheap, ready-made clothing in general. c. short, baggy trousers, worn by men, esp. sailors, in the 16th and 17th centuries. 2. a loose-fitting overgarment, as a tunic or smock. [bef. 1000; ME *slop*, OE *slop* (in *oferslop* overgarment); cf. MD *overslop*, ON *yfirsloppr*]

**slop/ ba/sin**, *Brit.* a basin or bowl into which the dregs, leaves, and grounds of teacups and coffee cups are emptied at the table. Also called **slop bowl**. [1725-35]

**slop/ buck/et**. See **slop pail**. [1855-60]

**slop/ chest**, 1. a supply of clothing, boots, tobacco, and other personal goods for sale to the crew of a ship during a voyage. 2. (formerly) a chest containing this supply. [1830-40]

**slope** (slope), *v.* **sloped**, **slop-ing**, *n.* —*v.i.* 1. to have or take an inclined or oblique direction or angle considered with reference to a vertical or horizontal plane; slant. 2. to move at an inclination or obliquely: *They sloped gradually westward.* —*v.t.* 3. to direct at a slant or inclination; incline from the horizontal or vertical: *The sun sloped its beams.* 4. to form with a slope or slant: *to slope an embankment.* 5. **slope off**, **Chiefly Brit. Slang**. to make one's way out slowly or furtively. —*n.* 6. ground that has a natural incline, as the side of a hill. 7. inclination or slant, esp. downward or upward. 8. deviation from the horizontal or vertical. 9. an inclined surface. 10. Usually, **slopes**. hills, esp. foothills or bluffs: *the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro.* 11. **Math.** a. the tangent of the angle between a given straight line and the x-axis of a system of Cartesian coordinates. b. the derivative of the function whose graph is a given curve evaluated at a designated point. 12. **Slang** (disparaging and offensive). an Asian, esp. a Vietnamese. [1495-1505; aphetic var. of *ASLOPE*; akin to *slurp*] —**slop/ing-ly**, *adv.* —**slop/ing-ness**, *n.*

—**Syn.** 1. **SLOPE**, **SLANT** mean to incline away from a relatively straight surface or line used as a reference. To **SLOPE** is to incline vertically in an oblique direction: *The ground slopes (upward or downward) sharply here.* To **SLANT** is to fall to one side, to lie obliquely to some line whether horizontal or perpendicular: *The road slants off to the right.*

**slop/er** (slop/er), *n.* 1. a person or thing that slopes. 2. **Tailoring**. a basic pattern developed on paper by drafting or in cloth by draping, but with seam allowances

omitted, used as a tool to create other patterns. [**SLOPE** + *-er*]

**slop/ jar**, a large jar or pail for collecting household slop for disposal. [1850-55]

**slop-over** (slop/ov), *n.* 1. an act or instance of spilling or slopping over. 2. an amount spilled; spillover; overflow. [1905-10, Amer.; n. use of *v.* phrase *slop over*]

**slop/ pail**, 1. a pail for conveying slop in feeding livestock, esp. pigs. 2. a pail into which household slop is collected for disposal. Also called **slop bucket**. [1860-65]

**slop-py** (slop/py), *adj.* **-pi-er**, **-pi-est**. 1. muddy, slushy, or very wet: *The field was a sloppy mess after the rain.* 2. splashed or soiled with liquid. 3. careless; loose: *sloppy writing.* 4. untidy; slovenly: *sloppy clothes; a sloppy eater.* 5. overly emotional; gushy: *sloppy sentimentality.* 6. (of food or drink) prepared or served in an unappetizing way. 7. (of clothes) loose-fitting; baggy: *a big, sloppy sweater.* 8. (of the surface of a racetrack) wet from a recent or continuing heavy rain and containing puddles and mud still too thin and watery to be sticky. [1700-10; **SLOP** + *-py*] —**slop/pi-ly**, *adv.* —**slop/pi-ness**, *n.*

—**Syn.** 2, 4. messy. 3. slipshod. 4. slatternly.

**Slop/ py Joe**, 1. a sandwich of ground beef cooked in a spicy tomato or barbecue sauce and usually served on a bun. 2. a baggy, overlarge sweater originally worn by girls and young women in the 1940's. 3. a man or youth whose appearance is habitually slovenly. Also, **slop/py Joe**, **slop/py Joe** (for def. 1, 2). [1935-40]

**Slop/ py Joe's**, *Slang*. See **greasy spoon**.

**slop-shop** (slop/shop), *n.* a store at which cheap, ready-made clothing may be purchased. [1715-25; **SLOP** + *shop*]

**slop/ sink**, a deep sink for emptying slop pails and the like. [1880-85]

**slop-work** (slop/wurk), *n.* 1. the manufacture of cheap clothing. 2. clothing of this kind. 3. work that is carelessly or poorly done. [1840-50; **SLOP** + *work*] —**slop/work-er**, *n.*

**slosh** (slosh), *v.i.* 1. to splash or move through water, mud, or slush. 2. (of a liquid) to move about actively within a container. —*v.t.* 3. to stir or splash (something) around in a fluid: *to slosh the mop in the pail.* 4. to splash (liquid) clumsily or haphazardly: *She sloshed tea all over her new suit.* *They sloshed the paint over the wall.* —*n.* 5. watery mire or partly melted snow; slush. 6. the lap or splash of liquid: *the slosh of waves against the shore.* 7. a small quantity of liquid: *a slosh of milk in the pail.* 8. a watery or weak drink. [1805-15; perh. b. **SLOP** and *slush*]

**sloshed** (sloshd), *adj.* **Slang**. drunk. [1945-50; **SLOSH** + *-ed*]

**slosh-y** (slosh/y), *adj.* **slosh-i-er**, **slosh-i-est**. of or pertaining to slosh; slushy. [1790-1800; **SLOSH** + *-y*] —**slosh/i-ly**, *adv.* —**slosh/i-ness**, *n.*

**slot** (slot), *n.* **v. **slotted**, **slot-ting**. —*n.* 1. a narrow, elongated depression, groove, notch, slit, or aperture, esp. a narrow opening for receiving or admitting something, as a coin or a letter. 2. a place or position, as in a sequence or series: *The program received a new time slot on the broadcasting schedule.* 3. **Fig.** (esp. in tagmemics) a position having a specific grammatical function within a construction into which any one of a set of morphemes or morpheme sequences can be fit. Cf. **filler** (def. 9). 4. an assignment or job opening; position: *I applied for the slot in management training.* 5. **Journalism**. a. the interior opening in a copy desk, occupied by the chief copy editor. b. the job or position of chief copy editor: *He had the slot at the Gazette for 20 years.* Cf. **rim** (def. 7). 6. an allocated, scheduled time and place for an aircraft to take off or land, as authorized by an airport or air-traffic authority: *40 more slots for the new airline at U.S. airports.* 7. **Informal**. See **slot machine** (def. 1). 8. **Aeron.** See under **slat** (def. 2). 9. **Ornith.** a narrow notch or other similar opening between the tips of the primaries of certain birds, which during flight helps to maintain a smooth flow of air over the wings. 10. **Ice Hockey**. an unmarked area near the front of an opponent's goal that affords a vantage for an attacking player. —*v.t.* 11. to provide with a slot or slots; make a slot in. 12. to place or fit into a slot: *We've slotted his appointment for four o'clock.* —*v.i.* 13. to fit or be placed in a slot. [1300-50; ME: the hollow of the breastbone < MF *esclot* < ?]**

**slot** (slot), *n.* 1. the track or trail of a deer or other animal, as shown by the marks of the feet. 2. a track, trace, or trail of something. [1565-75; < AF, MF *esclot* the hoofprint of a horse, prob. < ON *slóth* track, trail; see **SLUTHOUND**]

**slot-back** (slot/bak), *n.* **Football**. 1. an offensive back who lines up about one yard behind the gap in the line between a tackle and an end stationed a distance outside of the tackle. 2. the position played by this back. [1960-65; **SLOT** + *back*]

**slot/ car**, a miniature, electrically-operated toy racing car that runs on a slotted track and is controlled by an operator with a hand-held rheostat. Also called **slot racer**. [1965-70, Amer.]

brown coat often of a greenish cast caused by algae and long, hooklike claws used in gripping tree branches while hanging or moving along in a habitual upside-down position. 3. a pack or group of bears. [1125-75; ME *slouth* (see *slow*, -th); r. OE *slawth*, deriv. of *slaw*, var. of *slaw slow*]

—**Syn.** 1. shiftlessness, idleness, slackness.

**sloth/ bear**, a coarse-haired, long-snouted bear, *Ursus ursinus*, of India and Indochina; now rare. [1825-35]

**sloth bear**  
*Ursus ursinus*  
2 1/4 ft. (0.8 m)  
high at shoulder,  
length 5 1/4 ft. (1.7 m)



**sloth-ful** (sloth/fal, sloth/-), *adj.* sluggardly; indolent; lazy. [1350-1400; ME; see **SLOTH**, -ful] —**sloth/ful-ly**, *adv.* —**sloth/ful-ness**, *n.*

—**Syn.** sluggish; inactive, torpid, slack. See **idle**.

**slot/ machine**, 1. a gambling machine operated by inserting coins into a slot and pulling a handle that activates a set of spinning symbols on wheels, the final alignment of which determines the payoff that is released into a receptacle at the bottom. 2. any machine operated by inserting coins into a slot, as a vending machine. [1890-95]

**slot/ man**, copyeditor (def. 3). Cf. **copyreader**.

**slot/ rac/er**. See **slot car**. [1965-70]

**slot/ rac/ing**, the activity of racing slot cars. [1965-70]

**slot/ted spoon**, a large spoon whose bowl has several slots or holes for draining liquid from food being ladled. [**SLOT** + *-ed*]

**slot-ter** (slot/er), *n.* 1. a person or thing that slots. 2. a machine tool for shaping vertical surfaces with a cutting tool held in a vertically reciprocating ram. [1880-85; **SLOT** + *-er*]

**slouch** (slouch), *v.i.* 1. to sit or stand with an awkward, drooping posture. 2. to move or walk with loosely drooping body and careless gait. 3. to have a droop or downward bend, as a hat. —*v.t.* 4. to cause to droop or bend down, as the shoulders or a hat. —*n.* 5. a drooping or bending forward of the head and shoulders; an awkward, drooping posture or carriage. 6. an awkward, clumsy, or slovenly person. 7. See **slouch hat**. 8. a lazy, inept, or inefficient person. [1505-15; orig. uncert.] —**slouch/er**, *n.* —**slouch/ing-ly**, *adv.* —**Syn.** 8. laggard, loafer, sluggard.

**slouch/ hat**, a soft hat often made of felt and having a supple, usually broad brim. [1830-40]

**slouch-y** (slouch/y), *adj.* **slouch-i-er**, **slouch-i-est**. of or pertaining to a slouch or to a slouching manner, posture, etc. [1685-95; **SLOUCH** + *-y*] —**slouch/i-ly**, *adv.* —**slouch/i-ness**, *n.*

**slough** (slou for 1, 2, 4; slō for 3), *n.* 1. an area of soft, muddy ground; swamp or swamplike region. 2. a hole full of mire, as in a road. 3. Also, **slow**, **slue**. **Northern U.S. and Canadian**. a marshy or reedy pool, pond, inlet, backwater, or the like. 4. a condition of degradation, despair, or helplessness. [bef. 900; ME, OE *slough*; c. MLG *slouch*, MHG *sluoch* ditch]

**slough** (sluf), *n.* 1. the outer layer of the skin of a snake, which is cast off periodically. 2. **Pathol.** a mass or layer of dead tissue separated from the surrounding or underlying tissue. 3. anything that is shed or cast off. 4. Cards. a discard. —*v.i.* 5. to be or become shed or cast off, as the slough of a snake. 6. to cast off a slough. 7. **Pathol.** to separate from the sound flesh, as a slough. 8. Cards. to discard a card or cards. —*v.t.* 9. to dispose or get rid of; cast (often fol. by *off*): *to slough off a bad habit.* 10. to shed as or like a slough. 11. Cards. to discard (cards). 12. **slough over**, to treat as slight or trivial: *to slough over a friend's mistake.* Also, **sluff**. [1250-1300; ME *slughe*, slough skin of a snake; c. G *Schlau* skin, bag] —**slough/i-ness**, *n.* —**slough/y**, *adv.*

**Slav/ak** (slav/ak, -vak), *n.* 1. one of a Slavic people dwelling in Slovakia. 2. the language of Slovakia, a Slavic language closely related to Czech. —*adj.* 3. of or pertaining to the Slovaks or Slovak. [1820-30; < Slovak *slavák*, ult. deriv. of Slavic *slavěninā* Slav]

**Slavo-vak** (slav/vak, -vak/ē), *n.* a republic in central Europe; formerly a part of Czechoslovakia; under German protection 1939-45; independent since 1993. 5,296,768; 18,931 sq. mi. (49,035 sq. km). Cap.: Bratislava. Also called **Slav/ak Republic**. Slovak, **Slavo-ven-sko** (slav/ven skō). —**Slavo-vak/an**, *adj.*, *n.*

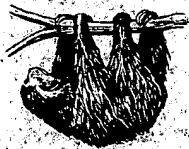
**sloven** (sluv/en), *n.* 1. a person who is habitually negligent of neatness or cleanliness in dress, appearance, etc. 2. a person who works, acts, speaks, etc., in a negligent, slipshod manner. [1400-50; late ME *slouwen*, perh. < MD *sluf* careless (D *sluf* careless, sloven to toll) + *-inne* fem. n. suffix]

**Slovene** (slō/ven, slō/vēn), *n.* 1. one of a Slavic people dwelling in Slovenia. 2. a South Slavic language spoken in Slovenia. —*adj.* 3. of or pertaining to the Slovenes or Slovene. Also, **Slavo-ven-ni-an**. [1880-85; < G *Slovene* < Slovene *Slovēnec* (n.), *slovēnshi* (adj.), ult. deriv. of Common Slavic *slavěninā* Slav]

**Slovene-ni-a** (slō vē/nē ə, vēn/yə), *n.* a republic in SE Europe; formerly part of Yugoslavia. 1,930,000; 7819 sq. mi. (20,250 sq. km). Cap.: Ljubljana.

**sloven-ly** (sluv/en lē), *adj.*, **-li-er**, **-li-est**, *adv.* —*adj.* 1. untidy or unclean in appearance or habits. 2. characteristic of a sloven; slipshod: *slovenly work.* —*adv.* 3. in

two-toed sloth,  
*Choloepus hoffmanni*,  
length 2 ft. (0.6 m)



CONCISE ETYMOLOGY KEY: <, descended or borrowed from; >, whence; b, blend of; blended; c, cognate with; cf., compare; deriv., derivative; equiv., equivalent; imit., imitative; obl., oblique; r., replacing; s., stem; sp., spelling, spelled; resp., respelling, respelled; trans., translation; ? , origin unknown; \* , unattested; † , probably earlier than. See the full key inside the front cover.